November 9, 2011

Submitted via ECFS

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 l2th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **PS Docket No. 11–153** and **PS Docket No. 10–255**
Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am a law student at NYU. I commend the Commission's efforts to modernize emergency communication with Next Generation 911 ("NG911").

Consumer expectations must be met quickly.

Due to their frequent use of text messaging,[1] it is likely that many young people already expect 911 to accept incoming text messages.[2] The current system poses a risk to individuals in that group who attempt to contact emergency services via text message. Any such attempts may result in dangerous delays during emergency situations.

Calls from wireless providers to wait until IMS or NOVES standards are adopted should be carefully balanced against this reasonable expectation of current SMS support.

SMS with location information would be a sufficient interim solution.

An SMS-based NG911 system would be an adequate interim solution if its messages included location information. Importantly, the expectation noted above applies to SMS specifically and not to non-voice technologies generally. Accordingly,

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[1] Aaron Smith, Pew Internet & Am. Life Project, *Americans and Text Messaging* 3 (Sept. 19, 2011), http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Cell-Phone-Texting-2011.aspx (follow "Read Full Report: Download" hyperlink) ("95% of 18-29 year olds use the text messaging feature on their phones, and . . . send or receive an average of 87.7 text messages on a normal day. . .").

[2] *See, e.g.,* Philip J. Weiser et. al., *The Future of 9-1-1-: New Technologies and the Need for Reform,* 6 J. Telecomm. & High Tech. L. 213, 282 (2008) ("[T]here are expectations that emergency services should be able to handle a wide range of communications technologies, including SMS text messaging . . .").

the Commission will best reduce risks associated with this expectation if it implements an SMS-based system.

The FCC has emphasized the importance of user location information in connection with the current E911 system; for example, the Commission noted in 2007 that "inadequate location information can result in a loss of life that might otherwise have been prevented."[3] Among other solutions noted in the proposed rule, the FCC should investigate whether phones can be programmed to automatically embed GPS data in any text message sent to 911.[4] The Commission should prioritize the efficient transfer of location information if it utilizes an SMS-based system.

Conclusion

The young public's reasonable assumption that 911 can accept text messages presents an urgent challenge, and an SMS-based NG911 system that includes location information would be an adequate response.

Sincerely,

Andrew Osarchuk

[3] Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 22 FCC Rcd. 10609, 10612 (2007).

[4] This functionality is already used to give photos geotags, which are "bit[s] of data providing the longitude and latitude of where the photo was taken." Kate Murphy, *Web Photos That Reveal Secrets, Like Where You Live,* N.Y. Times, Aug. 12, 2010, at B6.